

**Jobs for Montana's Graduates Foundation (JMGF)**  
**2010-2011 AmeriCorps Formula Continuation Request for Young Adult Service Corps**  
**(YASC)**

Applicant Info: N/A

Application Info: N/A

Narrative Section:

Rational & Approach: N/A

**Community Outputs & Outcomes**

**Description of Activities and Member Roles:**

In the 2009-2010 program year JMGF & YASC cultivated a new partnership with Thompson Falls High School. We anticipate that this partnership will continue in the 2010-2011 year as well. Sanders County, home of Thompson Falls High School, has the highest unemployment rate in Montana. The free and reduced lunch in the Thompson Falls school district is close to 70%. There is a need both for volunteer services and the opportunity for students to earn money for college. YASC Members in Thompson Falls volunteer as classroom aides and reading buddies with elementary students, build toys for local children, plan to implement a community clean up and some may help at the local animal shelter. The partnership with Thompson Falls High School is typical in regards to other partnerships as it provides the opportunity for high school students to engage in service with AmeriCorps to benefit low-income individuals and children. High school students serving with YASC at Thompson Falls will have the opportunity to engage in a project called Soaring to College; this project is a service learning and fundraising project that promotes the significance of achieving a college education to elementary students.

**Organizational Capacity:**

Plan for Self-Assessment and Improvement: n/a

**Measurable Outputs and Outcomes:**

100 Young Adults Service Corps Members will each continue to contribute direct service to support partner schools and organizations in delivering meaningful service with real impacts.

100 Young Adults Service Corps Members will each continue to take a leadership role in recruiting 100 community (non-AmeriCorps) volunteers. Each member will recruit and engage 1 volunteer to serve 8 hours. The community volunteer will contribute 8 hours of volunteer service then will complete a survey that is returned to the JMGF office. Volunteers who serve 8 hours and complete the survey will report a positive experience and a willingness to volunteer again.

Young Adults Service Corps Members will each complete 2 leadership self assessment and reflection activities. 75% of the Members who complete both activities will report an increase in leadership confidence.

#### Community Involvement:

JMGF will continue to partner with schools and community based organizations to deliver the YASC opportunity for young adults. The partnerships will continue to contribute to assessing local community needs and designate a site supervisor while providing opportunity for young adults to contribute and benefit Montana's communities.

JMGF will continue to be engaged in the local and statewide community by participating in events and periodicals. In October 2009, JMGF highlighted YASC at the first annual Step Up to the Plate volunteer recruitment event in Helena, MT. We will continue to highlight our members and service sites through written materials such as the Youth Connections Magazine, in newspapers and on the radio. During the fall 2009 recruitment period JMGF documented from over a thousand dollars worth of cost free radio advertising to promote the Young Adult Service Corps across the state.

#### Relationship to other National and Community Service Programs:

The Program Director continues networking efforts through the National Service community, in Montana and Nationally. YASC will maintain and enhance its collaborative efforts with the Montana Campus Compact to increase YASC member and professional development opportunities. We are pleased to know that several YASC Alums have gone on to service with Campus Corps in both Missoula and Bozeman.

In 2010, YASC Program Director will complete a three-year Leadership Forum for National Service Executives Seattle. This program engages program staff from across the country and is the result of a collaboration between the Washington Commission on Community Service and the University of Washington Program Director.

Potential for Replication: n/a

#### Member Outputs and Outcomes

JMGF's Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) is currently in alignment with Corporation for National & Community Service focus areas of 'Ensuring a Brighter Future for America All of America's Youth', 'Engaging Students in ' Communities' and 'Mobilizing more Volunteers'. In anticipation of the shift in priority areas, Young Adult Service Corps is focusing on aligning with the Opportunity priority. YASC provides opportunity to young adults from all economic backgrounds to deliver services that benefits diverse community needs across Montana while earning an Education Award to offset the costs of higher education and encouragement to achieve some sort of higher education.

The collaborative multi-site approach and delivery of the Young Adult Service Corps facilitates the opportunity for eligible candidates to participate in a way that benefits

themselves and others. Further, since its inception and into the future YASC serves as an opportunity for young adults with and without disabilities to participate in AmeriCorps and local service. In the last program year, over 11% of YASC participants disclosed having some sort of disability. Currently the Office of Community Service staff is working with one of our partners who specifically engages students with disabilities and requested a reasonable accommodation for multiple members.

Some partnerships, such as Eureka and Melstone are areas that are rural and not currently served by other AmeriCorps\*State Programs. JMGF has taken strategic steps to engage rural communities where young adults have few options for employment and ways to earn resources for higher education.

Member Enrollment and Retention- based on last full program year (2008-2009)

As of 9.30.2009, ~~YASC~~JMGF has a ~~93~~92% enrollment rate. The total slots filled, including refilled slots is 107. The total number of members exited without an award for the year is 15, this resulted in 92 enrolled members who successfully completed service and received an Ed Award.

As of 9.30.2009, ~~YASC~~JMGF has ~~aan average~~ retention rate of 86.0%. This is the result of 107 filled slots and 15 members exited without an award. JMGF will continue education, training and work with site supervisors and young adult applicants in efforts to achieve the highest retention rate possible.

Member Development, Training and Supervision:

Members and site partners receive training in a module format and on a site-specific level.

~~YASC Program Director~~JMGF travels to train site supervisors, school personnel, conduct orientations, in service and end of service trainings. When there is a site-specific training need the member, the supervisor, school personnel and Program Director ~~work~~will work to meet those needs.

Ethic of Service and Civic Responsibility: In the current 2009-2010 program year, JMGF is piloting an event that will engage members in leadership and citizenship training. In 2010-2011, this will be replicated.

Community Outputs and Outcomes

Community Impact

The extent that JMGF has met the targeted outcomes for the Young Adult Service Corps is reported as per the last full program year 2008-2009. ~~Prior to 9.1.2009 the program was named JMGF AmeriCorps.~~

Service Delivery: 100 AmeriCorps Members will aid community and school based organizations in generating site-specific resources and delivering direct services. Target level of Success; 75% of organizations who receive direct service from AmeriCorps Members and who complete the Site Satisfaction Survey will report an increased ability to deliver services.

Actual Activity: As of 9.30.09, AmeriCorps Members have provided 30,773 hours of volunteer service to 16 partner schools and community based organizations.

Actual Level of Success: 16 of 16 (100%) Site Supervisors completed the Satisfaction Survey; all 16 indicated that they had an increased ability to deliver services. This 100% exceeds the goal of 75%. We plan to expand the qualitative data collection on the site supervisor survey to capture a wider range of data to provide a more detailed description of how the service delivery was increased.

Volunteer Recruitment Activity: Each AmeriCorps Member will recruit 1 community volunteer who will then provide 8 hours of volunteer service. Target level of Success: 75% of community volunteers recruited by JMGM AmeriCorps Members, who serve 8 hours and complete the Volunteer Satisfaction Survey, will report a positive experience and a willingness to serve again.

Actual Activity: In the period ending 9.30.2009, JMGM AmeriCorps members have recruited 113 volunteers who have contributed 5870 hours of service.

Actual Level of Success: In the period ending 9.30.2009, JMGM AmeriCorps Members turned in 78 volunteer surveys (78 of 92 =84%); all 78 said they had a positive experience and 75 of 78 (96%) responded yes they would volunteer again. 3 of 78 (4%) indicated they are unsure if they would volunteer again. We plan to continue work to ensure each member completes the volunteer recruitment and that each submits at least one volunteer survey. In 2008-2009 some AmeriCorps members recruited multiple community volunteers and submitted more than one survey. Overall, the data shows progress towards the target but we would like to have each member submit at least one survey.

Participant development-Leadership Confidence: Activity: JMGM AmeriCorps Members will complete 2 leadership curriculum module activities over the course of the term of service. Target level of Success: 75% of AmeriCorps members who complete both activities will report an increase in leadership confidence. 75%: Agencies where JMGM AmeriCorps Members serve will report that the member demonstrated increased leadership confidence at the end of the Term of Service.

Actual Activity: 92 of 107 members completed both leadership activities (86%) 15 of 107 members completed only one activity (14%) This exceeds the target goal of 75%.

Actual level of success: 92 members exited completed both activities, 71 reported an increase in leadership confidence (77%) 4 responded no increased confidence, 2 responded maybe increased confidence, 3 completed the activity but did not respond to the question asking if they had experienced increased leadership confidence (9 of 92= 9% maybe or no response). Note: 15 members completed one activity 15 of 107 (14%) JMGM received the Site Survey from 16 Site Supervisors who supervised 107 members. The supervisors reported observing an

increase in leadership confidence in the 92 of the 107 members they supervised (85.9%). Some sites did not report an increase in 15 members (14.1%) This is due in part to members withdrawing or being released early. This exceeds the goal of 75%.

JMGF plans to revise the site supervisor survey to include a question that will elicit data as to what was observed that indicates an increase in leadership confidence.

Sustainability: N/A

Volunteer Recruitment and Support:

Each of the 100 YASC Members will recruit one community, non-AmeriCorps, volunteer to serve 8 hours with them. Community volunteers will participate in episodic and ongoing projects. This will result in YASC Members recruiting 100 community volunteers who will contribute at least 800 hours of service to Montana. Community volunteers will complete a volunteer survey asking them to rate their experience and willingness to volunteer again.

Capacity Building: N/A

In 2008-2009, JMGF's AmeriCorps Members contributed 30,773 hours of volunteer service to Montana. At the minimum wage rate of \$7.25 per hour, this equates to \$223,104.25.

Organizational Capability

Sound Organizational Structure:

In 2008-2009 program year, JMGF hosted two monitoring visits from the Office of Community Service staff. One visit included a review of member files and the second visit focused on JMGF's fiscal systems. JMGF is proud to report that we received positive feedback and a low risk assessment due to the effective compliance during the monitoring visits.

Statewide Initiative Model Capabilities: N/A

Board of Directors, Administrators and Staff:

In October 2009, JMGF engaged a facilitator who led a board and staff strategic planning session. This has and will continue to enhance JMGF's ability to grow our service delivery.

Self-Assessment and Technical Assistance: N/A

Volunteer Generation and Support: N/A

Organizational and Community Leadership:

Collaboration: N/A

Local Financial and In-kind Contributions: N/A

Wide Range of Community Stakeholders: N/A

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

Corporation Cost per Member Service Year (MSY):

The CNCS cost per member service year (MSY) is \$5,660. This amount is the same as the previous year.

Diverse Non-Federal Support: N/A

**Budget Adequacy:**

In year 5, the matching fund percentage required for this grant is 30%. JMGF intends to match the 2010-2011 continuation at 32% (\$56,359). Of this amount, \$28,000 is from school districts, as well as school and community based site supervisors and \$28,359 from JMGF contributions and donations.

**Evaluation:**

This continuation request does include Corporation dollars to conduct the required evaluation in 2010-2011. Young Adult Service Corps evaluation will be process oriented and will focus on effectiveness of program delivery to partners and Members. Data will be gathered with the use of surveys, site visits and interviews. The results of the evaluation will be shared with the Office of Community Service staff, the Commission and others as appropriate. These activities are ongoing and are intended to identify strengths and improve areas to ensure high quality program delivery as it is pertinent to future planned growth of the Young Adult Service Corps.

Amendment Justification- N/A